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Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1939.

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To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Considerable time was spent during the year in connection with additional duties which arose as a direct result of the Civil Defence programme; these efforts were intensified on the outbreak of hostilities and consequently some curtailment of normal routine work resulted.

The outstanding feature of the year, however, was the mass-movement by the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme of expectant mothers, women with young children, and unaccompanied school children from the dangerous industrial areas into the safer areas of the country. These evacuees brought with them problems of many sorts with which the small staffs of the Reception Areas had to contend and to solve; these problems, however, will no doubt be discussed at a more appropriate time.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..... D. S. Buchanan, M.B.,B.S.,B.Hy.,D.P.H

Sanitary Inspector ..... T. Ashcroft, C.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.M.E.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1939)	7823
(mid 1938)	7726
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939	2172
Rateable Value	£39,667
Value of Penny Rate	£131

During the course of 1939 no radical change took place in the industry of the district. As formerly, brickmaking remains the principal industry, with the preparation of canned fruits and vegetables and engineering as subsidiaries.

In addition there are seasonal industries in the manufacturing of sauces and of sugar from sugar beet.

All these industries are equipped with modern processes and all the firms take ample precaution for the welfare of their employees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS			
Legitimate	117	66	51
Illegitimate	4	1	3
	121	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.65	
STILL BIRTHS	6	6	0
		Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 47.2	
DEATHS	92	43	49
		Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.7 Death Rate adjusted 12.6	

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33.6
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,, ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Fletton	15.65	0.77	12.6	32.5
England & Wales	15.0	0.59	12.1	50
London (Adm. County)	12.3	0.44	11.9	48
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	14.8	0.59	12.0	53
148 Smaller Towns	15.6	0.57	11.2	40

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-Generals figures):—

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	43	49	92
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2 Measles	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	1	—	1
6 Influenza	1	2	3
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	3	5
10 Other Tuberculous diseases	1	—	1
11 Syphilis	—	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—
13 Cancer, Malignant disease	4	9	13
14 Diabetes	1	—	1
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	2	5
16 Heart Disease	10	16	26
17 Aneurysm	—	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	—	4	4
19 Bronchitis	1	1	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	3	—	3
21 Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
22 Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24 Appendicitis	—	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	—	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	—	3	3
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	—	1	1
29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	2	1	3
32 Senility	4	1	5
33 Suicide	—	1	1
34 Other violence	3	1	4
35 Other defined diseases	6	3	9
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities :** –

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme, specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :**—

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

A further ambulance is now available to meet the requirements of the district by the provision of an ambulance by the Hunts. County Council. This ambulance is stationed at Stilton.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :**—

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Council. Two qualified nurses, both of whom are also certified midwives, are employed. They carry out the general nursing in the district, attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:—**

Infant Welfare work in the district is carried out under the auspices of a voluntary body, the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association, at their clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. while a Toddlers Clinic is open on the first Thursday of each month from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services:—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	High Street, Old Fletton, Every Wenesday 9-30—12.
Eyes	Consultant's Rooms. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	High Street, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30 12 1-30 - 4
Tuberculosis	High Street, Old Fletton, Monthly 2nd Wednesday 1-30 - 4
Orthopaedic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 2-30 p.m. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic.....	Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals—Public and Voluntary:—**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) **Maternity Hospital :—**

Provision is made for the reception of Maternity Cases into either, the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution when home conditions are not suitable for the management, or, the Memorial Hospital Peterborough when complications make it desirable or necessitous.

Subsequent to the arrival of expectant mothers under the Government Evacuation Scheme further accommodation for Maternity Cases was required and, as a result, an Emergency Maternity Hospital was opened by the Hunts. County Council at Paxton Park.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :—

The water supply for the district is obtained from the Peterborough Corporation Water Undertaking and purchased in bulk. Bacteriological examination and chemical analysis elicit the fact that the supply is of good standard, but rather hard in character — samples for Bacteriological examination are taken frequently.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

Considerable work was carried out during the year under this heading.

Primarily the 45" Relief Sewer running from the Lode to the Storm tanks at the Pumping Station, Stanground was completed. This Relief Sewer takes all storm water over 6 times D.W.F. and was constructed to overcome the inadequacy of the then existing sewers to deal with the storm water.

In addition to this a commencement was made in connection with the Whittlesey Road Sewerage Scheme but, as a result of the war, the work was stopped before the scheme was completed.

Housing :—

Following the enquiry held by the Ministry of Health in January, three Slum Clearance Areas, defined by resolution of the Council, in connection with the Caravans situated in Coneygree Road, Stanground, were confirmed.

Unfortunately with the outbreak of hostilities and the subsequent curtailment of supplies new houses have not yet been erected to re-house the tenants of these caravans.

A survey of the housing throughout the district was made and a programme drawn up, but this, along with other matters have had to be placed in abeyance as a result of the suspension of parts of the Housing Acts.

During the course of the year 17 plans for houses were submitted for the approval of the Council, and throughout that period 27 new houses were erected.

The new Building Bye-Laws were confirmed by the Ministry of Health on 7th. day of June 1939.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :—

The quality of the milk is good, much of which is delivered in properly capped bottles.

Meat and other Foods :—

Slaughter houses and bakehouses have been inspected regularly and their conditions found to be satisfactory—details appear in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1939.

Number of Inspections	720
Number of re-Inspections	69
Number of other visits	10
Number of Informal Notices served	428
Number of Statutory Notices served	15
Number of Letters sent	281
Number of Letters received, including written complaints	208

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Practically the whole of the houses in the district are on the water carriage system. A certain number of houses have W.C.'s that are hand flushed—where possible steps are being taken to force the owners to provide and fix proper flushing cisterns. The law on this point not being too strong.

Number of new W.C.'s erected (This figure does not include W.C.'s provided to new houses)	4
Number of Pails converted to W.C.'s	Nil
Number of Privies converted to W.C.'s	Nil
Number of new Flushing Cisterns	5
Number of new W.C. pans	8
Number of choked W.C.'s	10

SCAVENGING.

The total number of houses that are scavenged being 2,145 and made up as follows :—

Fletton Ward	849
Woodston Ward	694
Stanground Ward	602

The following improvements have been carried out during the year :—

1. The fortnightly collection of the Whittlesey Road and Peterborough Road area having been made a weekly one.

2. The insanitary methods of dumping into a deep water logged knot hole abolished, and the disposal of refuse at Peterborough by Controlled Tipping.

All the houses within the area are scavenged weekly with the exception of a few scattered farms and the caravans on the three sites in Coneygree Road. The collection and disposal of refuse in these instances being undertaken by the owners or occupiers. No nuisance is caused.

With regard to our own Collection and Disposal I have no complaints. The work is carried out by direct labour, and as regards the collection with credit to the workmen. One Karrier Motor with a capacity of 6 cubic yards is the only vehicle engaged. Four men are employed to work the system. Some 2,500 tons of household refuse being dealt with annually. The refuse is dumped on the tip controlled by Peterborough Corporation, the Council paying a fee of 6d. per load. All sanitary ashtins are disinfected with carbolic powder when emptied.

The yearly cost of this undertaking is as follows :—

Net cost per 1,000 of population	£92
Cost per ton—Collection and Disposal	6/2¾

This amount can be taken as a reasonable one and in keeping with other local authorities of a similar size and population.

During the year 68 houses had new Sanitary Dust Bins to replace worn out receptacles, 61 notices to provide having been sent. 6 Litter Baskets fixed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I have investigated the following 11 cases of infectious diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	3
Diphtheria	5
Typhoid	1
Erysipelas	2

All rooms occupied by patients have been promptly and efficiently fumigated.

DISINFESTATION.

I have disinfected 2 houses for bugs etc. The fumigation being carried out with Block Disinfectors and with great success.

In addition to the above houses 30 of our own Council Houses have been fumigated upon change of tenancy.

SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER ETC.

This is to receive attention during the early part of next year.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

We have on our register 27 Factories with mechanical power and 5 without mechanical power.

Inspections have been made during the year with reference to Sanitary Conveniences, Ventilation, Temperature, and Means of Escape in case of Fire.

Certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire have been issued in 4 cases during the year.

The register of means of escape in case of fire is up-to-date.

Underground Bakehouses—Nil.

Complaints notified during the year by the Inspector of Factories	4
Complaints remedied	4
Notifications received under Section 7 and 107 (Building operations in progress re provision of Sanitary Conveniences)	3

INSPECTION.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	165
Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Act of 1936	76
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	67
Number of dwelling houses found to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	9
Number of notices served under Section 9, Housing Act 1936	9
Number of notices served under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	7
Number of clearance orders under Section 25 and 26	Nil
Number of dwelling houses included in the order	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
Number rendered fit	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection :—

We have still 4 Licensed Slaughter Houses within the area. Regular visits are paid to these places. During the year some 57 visits were made. The undermentioned amount of meat was surrendered as unfit for food for human consumption :—

1 whole beast	weight 576 lbs.	Total 939 lbs.
2 fore-quarters	,, 363 lbs.	
3 sets of offal.		

Milk Supply :—

A constant watch is kept on our milk supply with regard to cleanliness At an early date it is my intention to make a survey of all cowsheds etc., within the district. We have 16 registered milk seller producers within the area, and also 8 shops selling milk by retail.

Bakehouses :—

We have 3 bakehouses. These are regularly inspected with regard to limewashing etc. Certain alterations have been carried out at these places.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

Certain sections of this Act which came into operation on the 1st Oct. apply to us. These include the registration of dealers and manufacturers in Ice Cream etc.

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Defective Roofs	36
Defective Floors	28
Worn out Closet Pails	8
Dampness	69
Want of Ashtins	68
Yard Paving	5
Ventilation	6
Insanitary Drainage	5
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	19
* Un-ventilated and badly lighted Food Stores	68
Smokey Chimneys	3

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. ASHCROFT,

Sanitary Inspector.

* The Ministry of Health when approached stated that in the absence of Bye-Laws the work could not be enforced.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Additions to the list of notifiable infectious diseases occurred as a result of the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations made by the Minister of Health which came into force on 1st November, 1939.

During the past year there were only sporadic cases of infectious disease.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1939.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	3
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Recognising the possibility of outbreaks of infectious disease resulting from mass immigration into the district, all arrangements were made to commence an intensive drive for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

The Scheme was completed by the end of the year, and ready for the initial drive to take place in the new year.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	2	1	—	—	1	1	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55								
65 & upwards								
TOTAL:—	4	6	1	—	1	4	1	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.